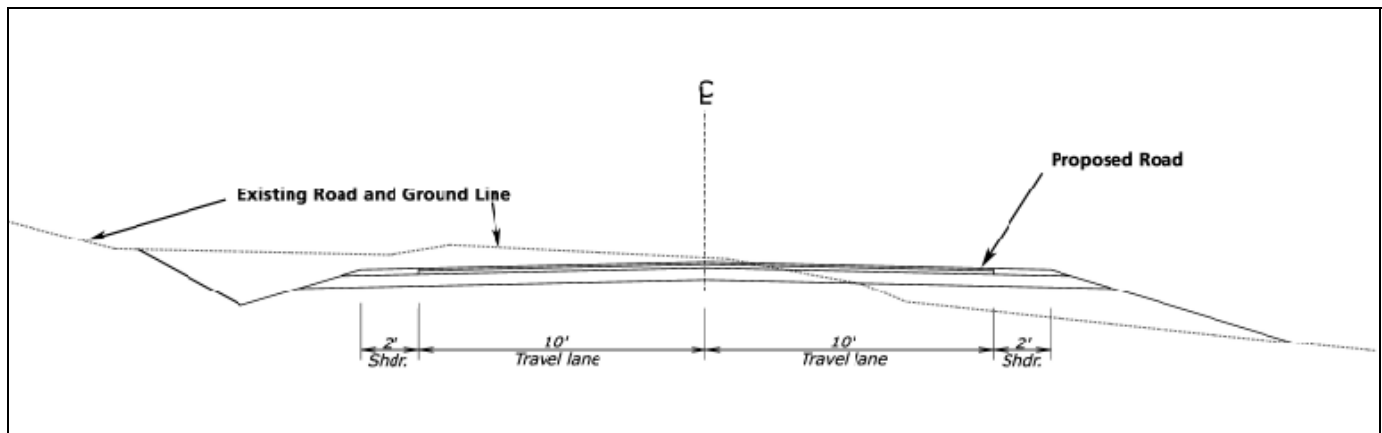


Environmental Assessment for the Construction of a New Entrance Road to the Shady Lake Recreation Area

Ouachita National Forest
Polk and Howard Counties, Arkansas

The Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, proposes to construct a new entrance road to the Shady Lake Recreation Area. The existing Shady Lake Recreation Area entrance road (Caddo Road/FS Road 38) was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. Caddo Road is accessed from State Highway 246, and travels through several private properties before entering Forest Service land. Seasonal high use of the Recreation Area and the associated higher volume of traffic through this residential area cause a potential for conflicts with property owners. The proposed project is consistent with the Ouachita National Forest's desired conditions for a "transportation system of roads and trails [that] is safe, affordable, and environmentally sound, responds to public needs, and is efficient to manage" and recreational facilities that "are high quality, well maintained, safe, accessible, and consistent with visitors' expectations" as stated in the Revised Forest Plan dated September 2005.

The new entrance road would follow an existing gravel service road for approximately 1.2 miles. The entrance road would then follow new alignment for approximately 0.4 miles, and would tie into Caddo Road approximately 0.7 miles south of the Shady Lake Recreation Area. The new paved road would have two ten-foot lanes and two foot shoulders. The new roadway would meet the design criteria stated in the Revised Forest Plan.



The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a procedural law that provides a process for agencies to make an analytical study of the impacts of a proposed action. The initial step in the NEPA process is data gathering and issue identification. This step includes public scoping to gather input from the public on the proposed action and its potential impacts. We are currently at this step in the process. You are invited to comment on the proposed project and its potential impacts, and any issues that you feel should be considered. To ensure that your comments are included in the process, all comments must be submitted or postmarked by **April 7, 2009**.

The next step in the NEPA process is the development of an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA will include discussion of the proposed project's potential for social, economic, and/or environmental impacts. Once completed, the EA will be released for a 30-day public comment period.

Public Scoping Comment Period - Comments Accepted until
April 7, 2009. Comments may be submitted via email, phone,
or mail to:

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